

An aerial night photograph of Seoul, South Korea, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous illuminated buildings, bridges, and roads. The city lights create a vibrant, glowing effect against the dark sky. The text is overlaid on this background.

Access to Recreational Facilities in Seoul: Public Provision vs. Private Inequality

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Does where you live within Seoul affect access to recreational facilities?

*For example, if you live in wealthier districts such as Gangnam 3,
do you have better access?*

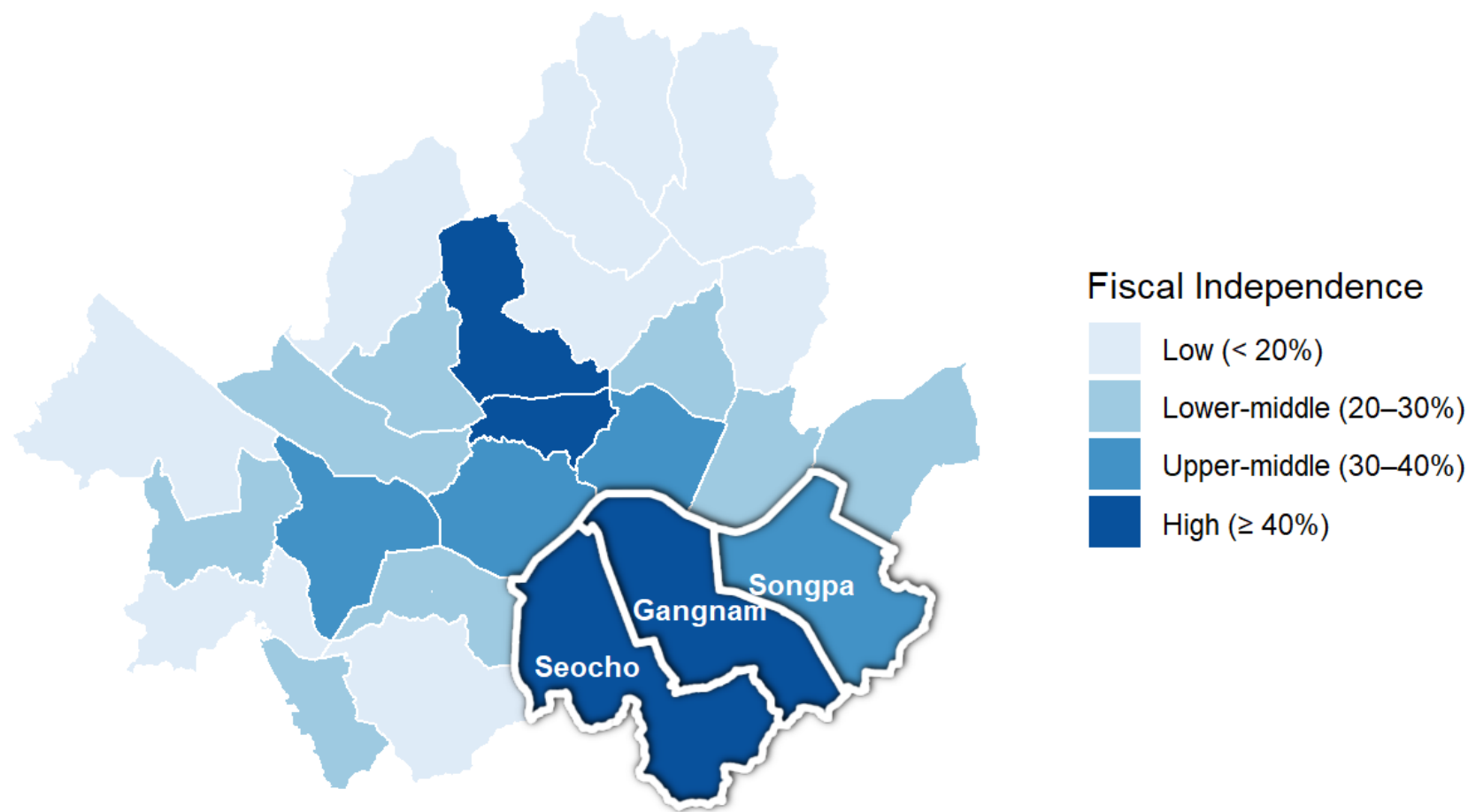
Where is Gangnam 3?



Public provision may reflect fiscal capacity.

Fiscal Capacity Varies Across Districts

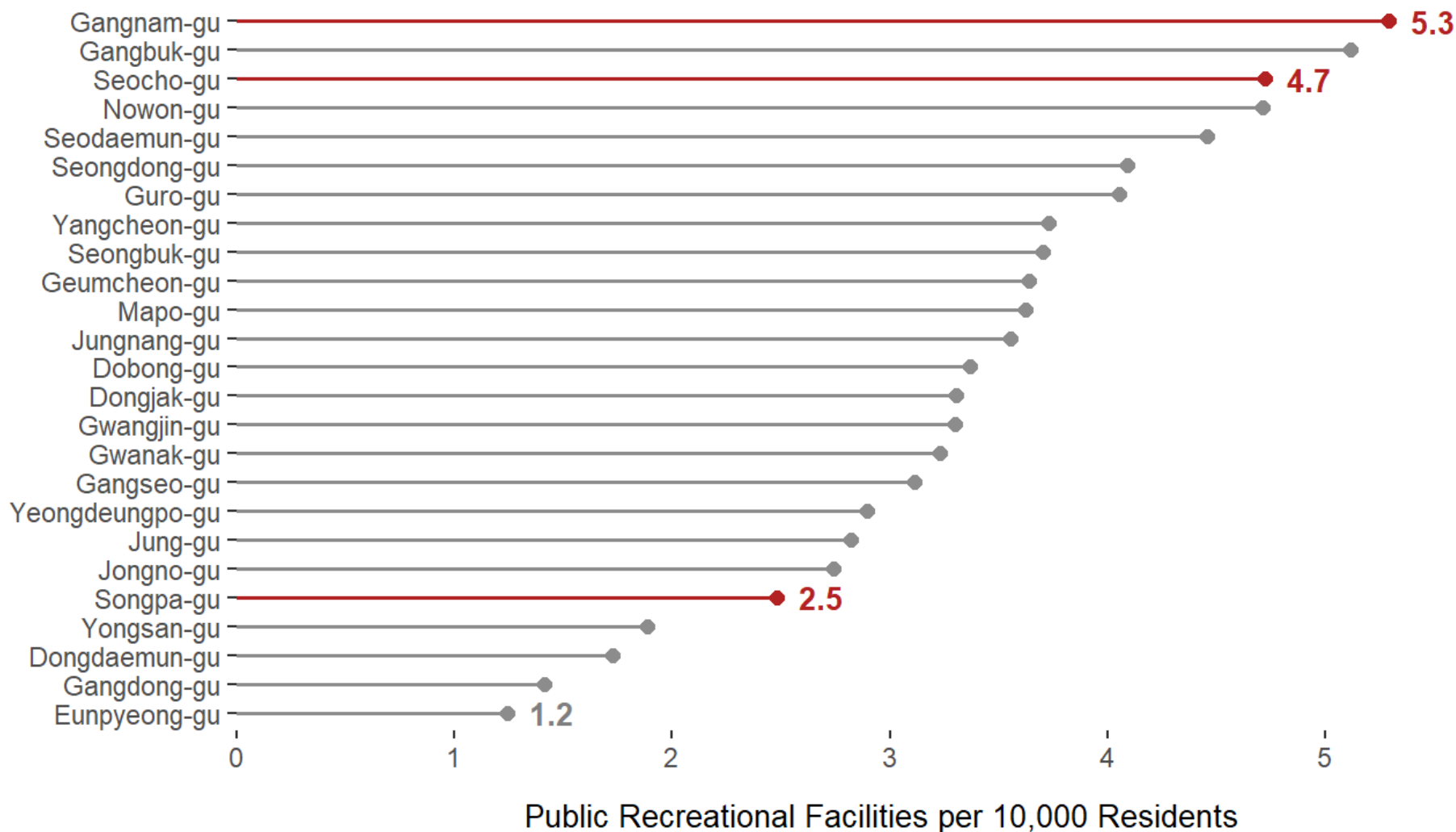
Fiscal independence ratio (%), 2024



Public provision is relatively even.

Public Recreational Facilities Show Limited Regional Variation

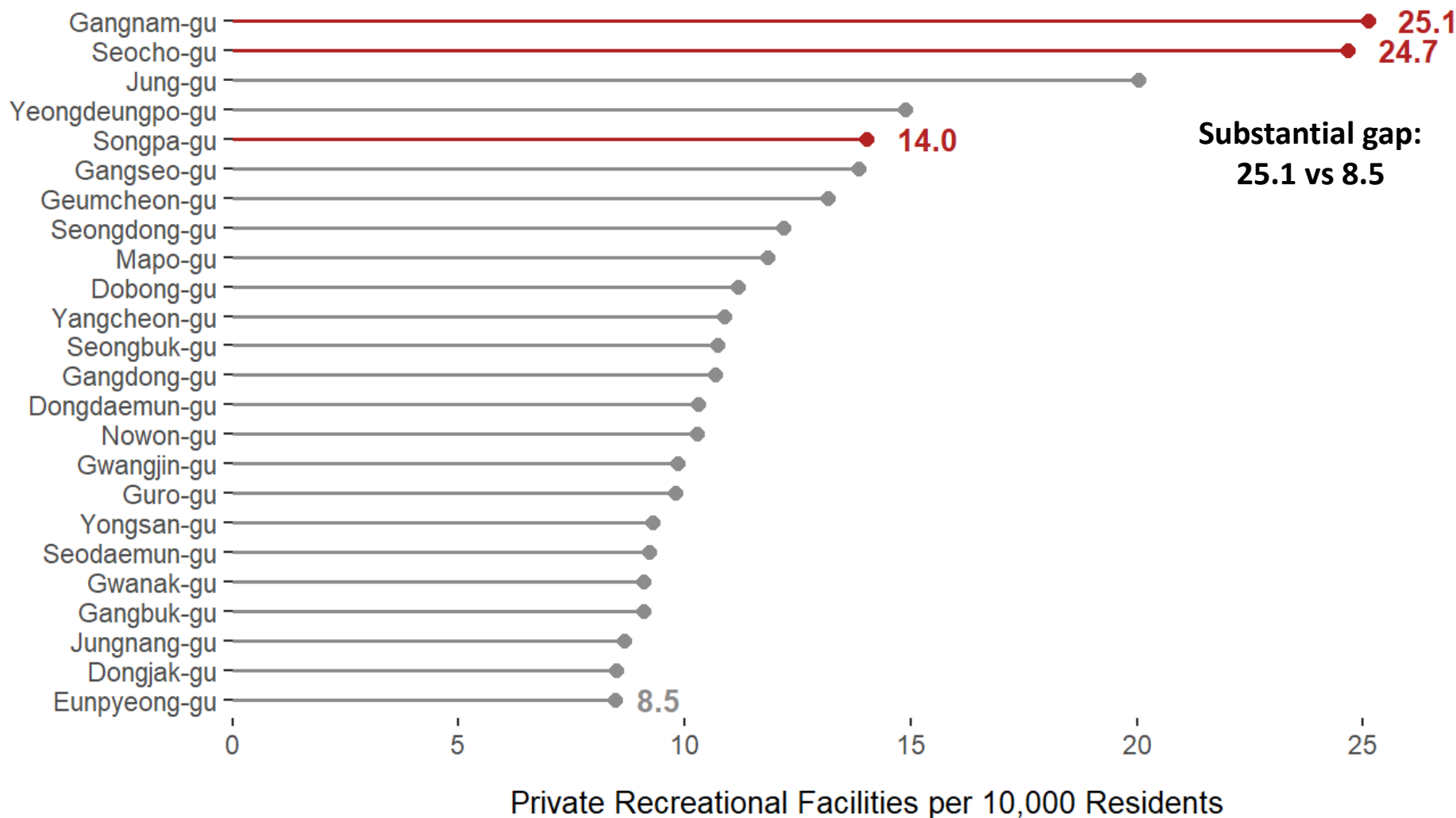
Comparison across 25 districts in Seoul (2024)



Private access tells a different story.

Private Facilities Are Highly Uneven

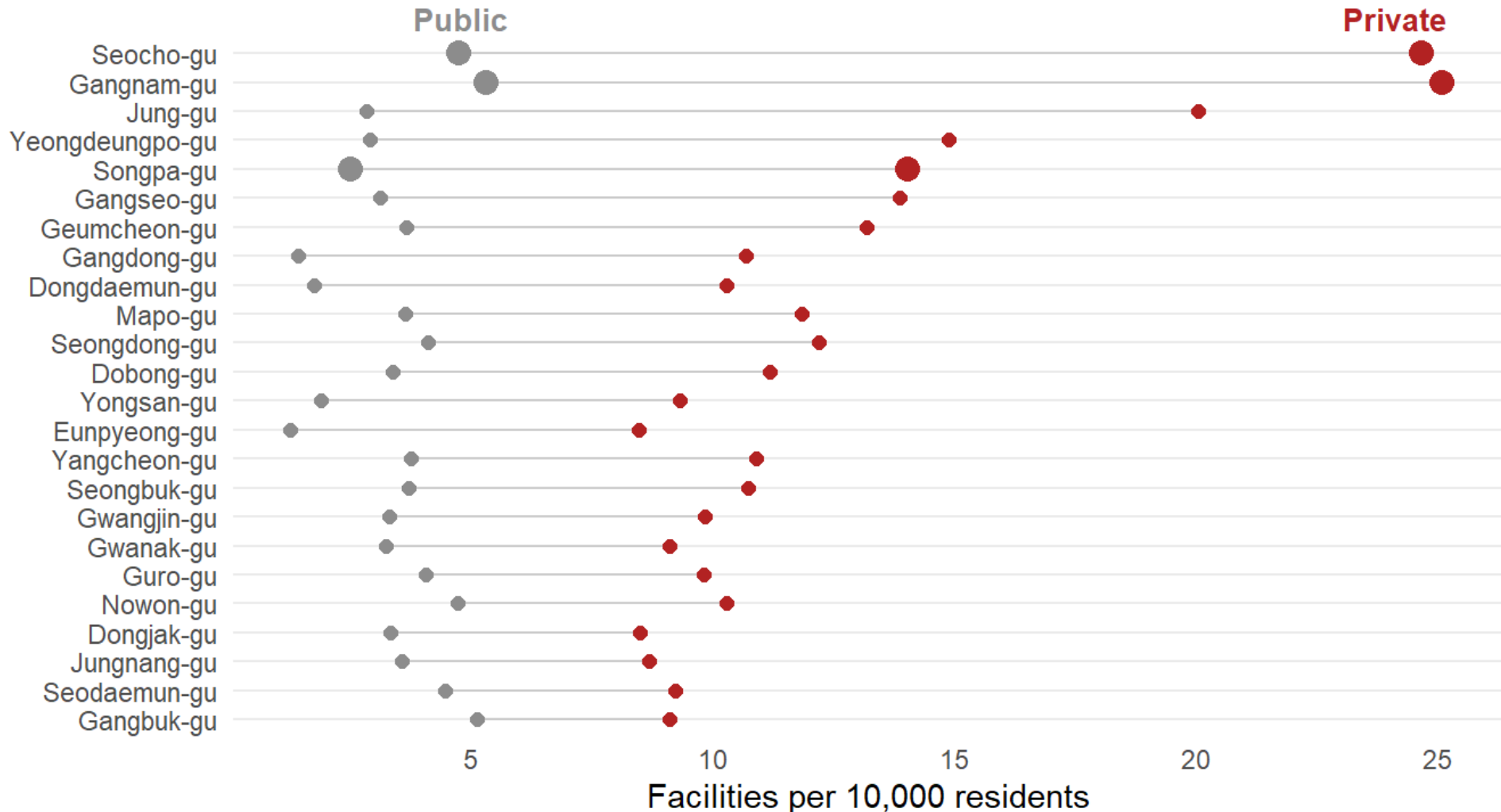
Comparison across 25 districts in Seoul (2024)



The gap is driven by private facilities.

Private Facilities Vary More Across Districts

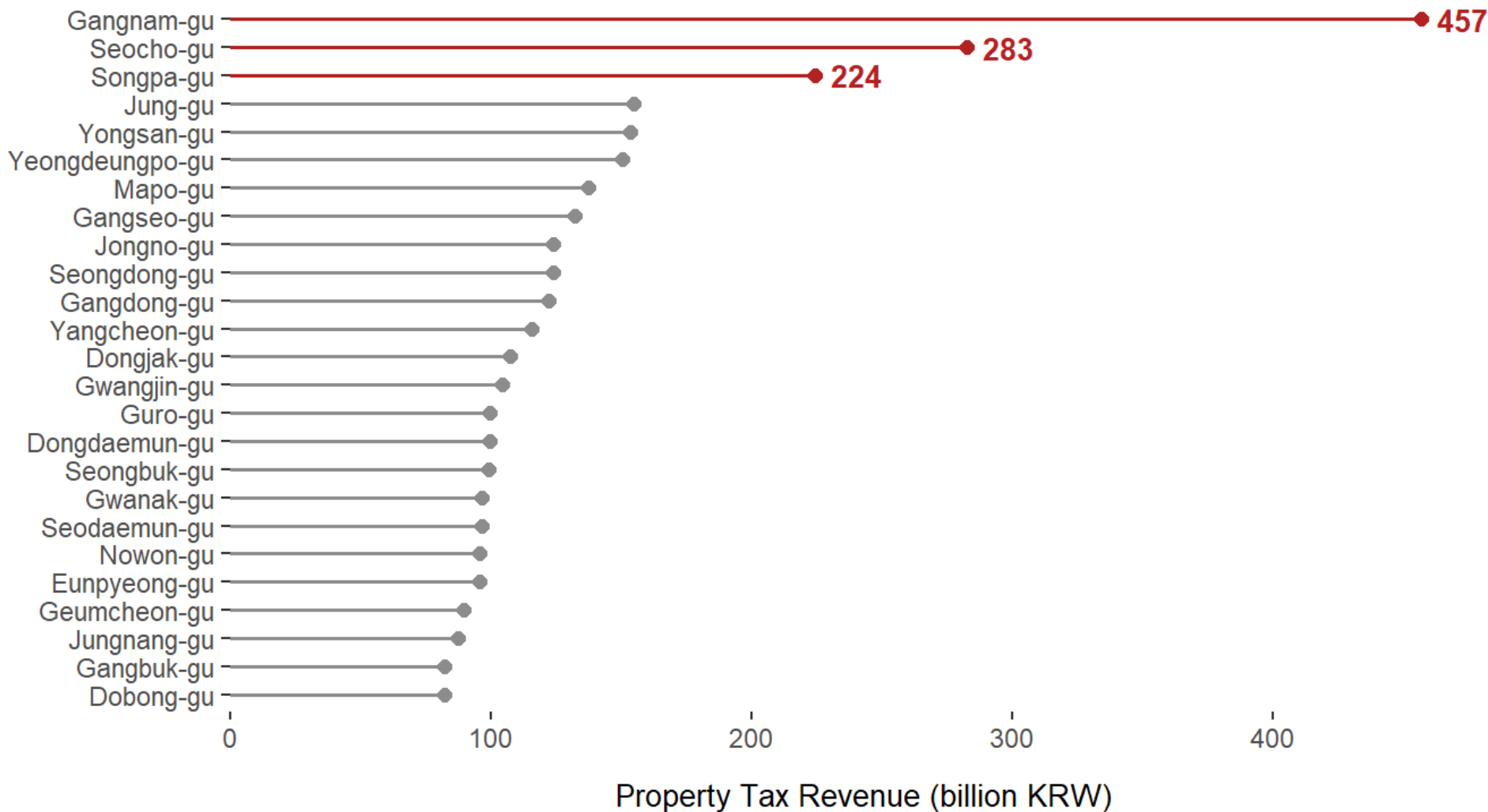
Public vs. private facilities per 10,000 residents, Seoul (2024)



Private access appears to reflect local wealth.

Property Tax Revenue Is Highly Concentrated in Gangnam 3

Comparison across 25 districts in Seoul (2024)

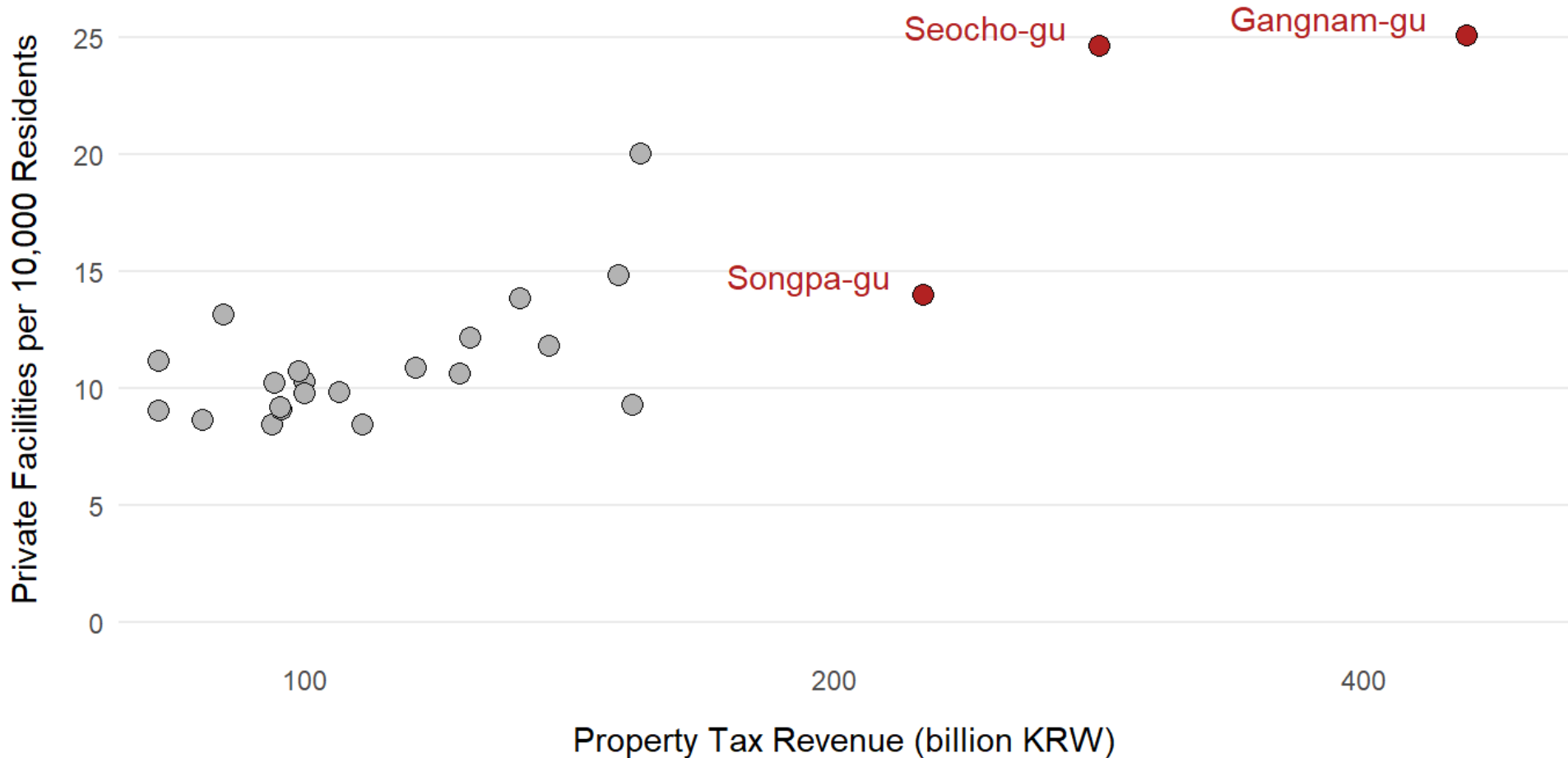


Source: Seoul Open Data Portal

Private access is closely tied to local wealth.

Private Facilities Increase with Local Wealth

Comparison across 25 districts in Seoul (2024)
Property tax revenue is shown on a log scale



Access depends on where you live.

- Not public provision, but private markets.
- Even with relatively equal public provision, access remains unequal.



**Public provision should play a stronger role
in offsetting private market disparities.**